

# Maori Wooden Bowls.

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The object of this paper is to place on record descriptions and illustrations of some of the Maori wooden bowls in the collection of the Auckland Museum, some from other institutions being included for comparative purposes. As the quantity of material available is fairly extensive, it has been thought best to limit this paper to descriptive work only, leaving other considerations to a later date.

Altogether the Auckland Museum collection comprises over 40 examples, some of them badly damaged, but there are many in an almost perfect state. For illustrations and particulars of others not in this collection I am indebted to Mr. R. S. Duff, of the Canterbury Museum; Mr. J. Grant, of the Wanganui Museum; and Mr. H. E. R. Wily, of Mauku.

## General Considerations.

Under the names *Kumete*, *'Umete*, or *Umeke*, wooden bowls are found all over Polynesia, and under other names in Melanesia. In Fiji they are called *Kumeto*, which is almost identical with the Polynesian name. Other names used by the Maori in different connections are *Oko*, *Paki* and *Kohua*, but I do not intend to go into this matter here. The general style and perfection of finish of Polynesian and Melanesian bowls varies considerably with different localities. The most perfect examples come from Hawaii, while very well made and often grotesquely shaped bowls are peculiar to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. In fact, each area has its own particular style, and in general it is possible to tell at sight to which group of islands any given bowl belongs.

With the Maori bowls, however, matters are somewhat different. A great variety of form is to be found, and they range from crudely hollowed out logs to beautifully finished examples ornamented with carving. Some agree very closely in motive with Hawaiian bowls, while others again would appear to have a distinctly Melanesian character.

It would appear that the Maori transported his wooden bowls over great distances, so that the fact that a bowl has been discovered in any given locality would not necessarily imply that it was manufactured there. Consequently, with one exception, it has not been possible at present to correlate any given type of bowl with a given locality.

### Uses of Bowls.

It is an interesting fact that although ample supplies of suitable material are available, the Maori never acquired the art of making pottery. The same applies to all the Polynesians, and it seems strange that these great wanderers did not pick up the art from the Melanesians, who had developed it to a considerable degree.

In the absence of pottery, wooden bowls had to fulfil a great variety of domestic requirements, and in this they were supplemented to a certain extent by gourds (*taha*) and baskets made from totara bark (*patua*). The work of fashioning wooden bowls was long and tedious, and as a result we would expect that they would be highly prized.

Wooden bowls would be used for holding liquids, for crushing berries, or for catching the melted fat from birds roasting before the fire. Also, they would act as containers for food, or as special receptacles in which titbits would be served up to visitors of rank. They were even used for cooking, the water in them being boiled by introducing stones that had first been heated in the fire. In short, wooden bowls would have to fulfil all the needs which to-day are fulfilled by our pots and pans and chinaware.

### Technique of Manufacture.

According to Brigham (1908, p. 159) the Hawaiian bowl craftsman first seasoned his wood by immersing it in a pool or swamp, and then proceeded to shape up the outside, leaving the excavation of the inside until after this had been finished. The Maori probably adopted a similar procedure, and one example, Fig. 17, which was recovered from a depth of 11 feet in a swamp at Opotiki, would seem to bear out this view. After the shaping process was finished the surfaces would be smoothed down with obsidian scrapers, and in this way a very fine finish was sometimes obtained.

Totara was the wood most commonly used, but by no means exclusively. Most of the bowls here described are of totara, but long immersion in swamps has a considerable effect on the appearance of the wood, so that in some cases a definite statement would be rather hazardous without a very careful examination.

### Description of Examples.

For the purposes of description the material has been roughly divided into several series, based mainly on shape, and until other material is examined no attempt is made to designate types.

## SERIES 1. Long Trough-like Bowls.

These may be conveniently divided into two further sections: (a) those which are crude and heavy, carved out of roughly squared logs; and (b) those which have been further trimmed and shaped so as to present curved instead of rectangular outlines.

### Section (a).

Fig. 1 of Plate 43 illustrates a trough of the heavy rectangular type. Cut from a roughly squared log, it has been rounded off at the ends, except for two massive lugs or handles, so that it somewhat resembles a pigeon trough. The rim opening is rectangular, as also is the flat bottom inside. Internally the sides are straight, but slope inward, so that the bottom is of considerably less area than the top. This means that while the top edge of the side is only an inch or so in thickness it rapidly increases to several inches at the bottom, making the trough heavy and massive. The whole has been roughly smoothed both inside and out.

In the Canterbury Museum there is a somewhat similar trough, No. E.104.15, from Rangiriri. It differs from the above in that the ends have been rounded a little internally instead of being straight. This imparts a somewhat oval shape to the bottom, but the top sides are parallel as before. Externally the ends have been roughly rounded off as in Fig. 1, and the tool marks are clearly visible.

Another Canterbury Museum specimen, No. E.80.2, is illustrated in Fig. 2. This bowl came from the famous Kaiapohia pa, north of the Waimakariri River, and has been trimmed up much more than either of the foregoing examples. The ends have been more rounded internally, and the sides have been given a slight bulge, so that the rim opening is a long oval. But although the sides and ends are curved, there is still a definite angle where they meet internally. The bottom is quite flat and practically agrees in shape with the rim opening. Externally a considerable amount of trimming has been done, and the adze marks are clearly defined. Instead of rounding off just the ends, the trimming process has been continued all over the outside, reducing it to a curved outline coinciding more or less with that of the interior. This greatly reduces the thickness of the wood, and no doubt the weight also.

### Section (b).

This section comprises the long bowls of rounded outline, showing a much greater degree of shaping and finish.

In Fig. 3 we see a fine example from Helensville. Shaped from a long straight-grained log, this has been carefully trimmed inside and out so that comparatively thin sides and light weight are attained. The outline of the rim is a long, slightly pointed

oval, as also is that of the flat bottom, but the latter is shorter and broader in proportion. Both outside and inside have been fairly well smoothed up, but adze marks are still plainly visible. On one end is a tapered point about 80 mm. long, channelled to form a spout, while on the other end is a narrow but deep lug 180 mm. long.

A fairly crude trough which may be included here is one from an unknown locality, Museum No. 6207. It is fashioned from a knotty piece of wood which probably was somewhat bowl-shaped to begin with. A comparatively small amount of trimming would then be necessary to produce a serviceable bowl. This example is very light, the sides being not more than 15 mm. thick in some places, while the ends also are quite thin. Internally it is fairly evenly shaped, but the wavy grain of the wood causes a certain amount of undulation in the surface. The outside has been trimmed down so as to follow closely the shape of the interior, and the bottom has been somewhat flattened to form a suitable base. The sides are more or less parallel, and the ends are rounded. Longitudinally this bowl is curved upward at the ends so that only the central part of the base touches the ground. On each end is a knotty projection or handle, and the whole bowl is but roughly finished.

The main dimensions of the above bowls are summarized in the following table:—

Museum No.	Fig.	Length Overall.	Width at Centre.	Depth at Centre.	Locality.
9756	1	980 mm.	305 mm.	178 mm.	Patetonga, Morrinsville
E.104.15	—	790 mm.	230 mm.	305 mm.	Rangiriri, Waitako
E.80.2	2	535 mm.	215 mm.	125 mm.	Kaiapohia pa, Canterbury
6040	3	1360 mm.	457 mm.	240 mm.	Helensville
6207	—	876 mm.	240 mm.	145 mm.	—

## SERIES 2.

In this series are included the short, broad and usually fairly deep bowls. This is not an uncommon type of bowl, and there are quite a few examples in the Auckland Museum collection. The outline of the rim ranges from broadly oblong with rounded corners to almost oval, and the thickness of the walls is not very great. Internally the sides and ends are evenly concave, and there is little or no angularity noticeable where they meet the bottom. Externally the curves follow closely those of the inside, and the bottom is more or less flattened so as to form a base. Usually there is a small lug at one end, situated 30 mm. or so below the rim, and sometimes perforated.

Fig. 4 of Plate 44 illustrates a typical example from a swamp at Paterangi, near Ohaupo. It is a substantial yet comparatively light bowl, and agrees very well with the particulars given above. The lug on the end is perforated by a hole 25 mm. in diameter.

A similar but smaller example comes from Mangapiko, near Te Awamutu. It is a little more rounded in outline and has a solid projection 100 mm. long at one end. This has been broadly channelled on top as if to form a spout, but there is no opening from it into the bowl itself.

From Patetonga comes a damaged example of a heavier bowl of this type No. 24607. It differs from the above in that the walls are thicker and the sides much straighter internally, so that a distinct rectangular bottom may be seen inside. Outside the bottom is quite round, and no attempt has been made to flatten it. Indeed, it almost appears that this bowl may not have been finished. One end is badly broken away, but no doubt it originally bore a lug of some sort.

A fourth, proportionately longer example, No. 16262.1, has had one top edge badly broken away, but it agrees fairly well with the specifications of this series. The difference lies in its relatively greater length, for whereas in Fig. 4 the ratio length: breadth : depth is  $2\frac{1}{2} : 2 : 1$ , it is in this case  $3\frac{1}{4} : 2 : 1$ . On one end there is quite a small lug about 40 mm. long.

A very fine bowl which is included here for lack of a better place is No. 3077. Shaped like a deep and regularly oval dish with a rounded bottom, this example has been very carefully made. The shape is perfect and the surfaces smooth, both inside and out. The thickness of the wood has been reduced to about 12 mm. in all parts so that the finished article is quite light. On one end is a spout 60 mm. long, deeply grooved so as to be U-shaped in section. This is fed through a small hole about 30 mm. below the rim.

There is another bowl, of which unfortunately no details are known, which differs from the foregoing examples in several particulars. In general shape it is broader, shallower and altogether more oval and dish-like than the others listed in this series. On one end there is a large square lug on the same level as the rim, and I suspect there was a similar lug on the other end. A notable difference is that the ends are curved upward so that they are higher than the sides are at the middle. This is quite unusual, as practically all Maori bowls have their rims in a flat plane, very seldom curving upward or downward, as they do in some other Pacific types. These differences are probably sufficient to warrant the establishment of a separate series for this one example, but I have included it here for the sake of convenience. Other similar examples may come to light, and the matter of classification can be considered then.

The main dimensions of the bowls in this second series are tabulated below:—

Museum No.	Fig.	Length Without Projections.	Breadth at Centre.	Depth at Centre.	Locality.
19712	4	533 mm.	430 mm.	215 mm.	Paterangi, Ohaupo
—	—	457 mm.	360 mm.	195 mm.	Mangapiko, Te Awamutu
24607	—	430 mm.	343 mm.	205 mm.	Patetonga, Morrinsville
16262.1	—	445 mm.	265 mm.	132 mm.	Puni, Franklin Co.
3077	—	395 mm.	335 mm.	145 mm.	Roto-ngarc, Waikato
—	—	495 mm.	370 mm.	160 mm.	—

### SERIES 3.

This includes those bowls whose length and breadth are about equal, the rim outline being something between a square and a circle. Internally the sides and bottom form a single semi-cylindrical sweep from rim to rim, but the ends are straighter and show a more or less definite angle where they meet the sides and bottom. Externally the shape is almost identical with that of the inside, except that the ends are rather more rounded. The bottom is flattened just a little to form a base. The sides and ends are quite thin, but on account of the external rounding of the ends the latter are a little thicker than the sides.

In Fig. 5, which is a fine large example of this series, there is a perforated square lug on one end and a short spout on the other. This spout is set a little below the line of the rim, which is broken, and it would appear that originally the rim was continuous, the spout being fed by a small circular hole.

From a swamp at Mangere, near Auckland, comes a partly finished bowl of this type, No. 16709. The outside has been properly shaped up and finished except for the flattening of the base. Internally it has been excavated to a little over half its depth, leaving a very thick rim all round. Except for its shallowness, the shape of the interior follows the general specifications given for this series, and it would appear that the excavation would be completed by trimming off successive even layers from the whole of the interior surface. Unfortunately, both ends are damaged, so that it is impossible to say what provision was being made for end lugs or a spout.

Another damaged specimen No. 22731, has the ends more rounded internally, so that they do not make any angle with the sides or bottom.

The dimensions, approximate in some cases, of the above bowls are as follows:—

Museum No.	Fig.	Length Without Projections.	Breadth at Centre.	Depth at Centre.	Locality.
24469	5	610 mm.	585 mm.	265 mm.	Rangiriri
16709	—	460 mm.	409 mm.	205 mm.	Mangere
22731	—	460 mm.	450 mm.	210 mm.	—

#### SERIES 4.

This will include quite a variety of examples. The main differences from the preceding series are that the bottom is flat internally, there being a definite angle where it meets the sides and ends. Externally these bowls are practically hemispherical, with or without a flat circular base.

In a rather curious example, No. 16775, Fig. 6, the external shape is a little more than half of a sphere, so that the greatest diameter is several inches below the rim. Internally the sides and ends make distinct angles with each other and with the bottom. The ends are very long and curved, while the sides are nearly parallel. One side is shorter than the other, so that the rim is in the form of a more or less distorted circle. The bottom inside is a flat surface with curved ends and straight sides of unequal length. Outside a circular flat base has been provided. On one end there is a small lug perforated by a large square hole. This is a solid bowl, there being quite a considerable thickness of wood in most parts.

In Fig. 7 we see a very symmetrical and well finished bowl, almost perfectly hemispherical external and without any flat base. The rim is more or less circular, and from it the sides and ends curve downward to meet a small oblong and flat bottom. A feature of this example is the long channelled spout which curves downward. This bowl comes from an abandoned pa at Southern Wairoa.

Fig. 8 illustrates an almost perfectly circular bowl, light in construction and fairly well finished off. Externally it is hemispherical, with the usual flat base, and as the wood is about the same thickness everywhere, it is practically the same shape internally. The bottom inside is flat and circular. On the ends are two small flat lugs equal in size and about 15 mm. below the edge of the rim.

Mr. H. E. R. Wily, of Mauku, near Pukekohe, has in his possession a fine bowl of this type. I have not seen it, but from particulars supplied by him it appears to be very similar indeed to the last example described. It differs, however, in the fact

that instead of two equal sized lugs it has one lug and a tapered spout. This spout is 90 mm. long and connects with the interior of the bowl by means of a small hole 40 mm. below the rim.

In the Wanganui Public Museum there is still another example which I have not seen. Particulars furnished by the Honorary Director, Mr. J. Grant, show it to be practically circular, bowl-shaped and very symmetrical. The outside appears to have been fashioned with stone tools, but the inside bears the marks of a steel gouge, possibly a trimming up long subsequent to the original work. It has two lugs.

Another small bowl which differs somewhat from this series is No. 22730. Externally it is approximately hemispherical, with the usual circular flat bottom, but internally it presents a well smoothed, evenly dished shape, with no angles anywhere. The top rim is rather badly distorted, otherwise it would be practically circular in outline. On the ends there is a considerable thickness of wood, but the sides are comparatively thin. Both ends are badly broken away, so that there is no trace of any lug or other projection. Both outside and inside have been scraped down to a fairly smooth finish.

Museum No.	Fig.	Length Without Projections.	Breadth at Centre.	Depth at Centre.	Locality.
16775	6	445 mm.	445 mm.	245 mm.	Otorohanga
251	7	390 mm.	355 mm.	178 mm.	S. Wairoa
19282	8	425 mm.	420 mm.	195 mm.	—
H. E. R. Wily Wang.	—	440 mm.	440 mm.	220 mm.	Mauku, Pukekohe
Mus. 22730	—	490 mm. 330 mm.	490 mm. 290 mm.	118 mm. 150 mm.	— —

## SERIES 5.

Here we have two bowls of a distinctive type. Both come from Taranaki, and both are ornamented with typical Taranaki carving, so it is safe to assume that they were manufactured there.

No. 4470, illustrated in Plate 45, Fig. 9, is large and heavy and well finished off, both inside and out. In outline it is almost circular, and stands on a flat oval base. Externally the sides from rim to base show a nearly straight outline and slope steeply inward, so that the diameter of the base is only half that of the top. The inside has been excavated to a circular bowl shape, with straight sides descending to a circular and flat bottom. The angle that would thus be made between sides and bottom has been eased into a gentle curve. The rim is approximately the



same thickness all round, as also are the walls, there being no great difference in thickness between the sides and ends. On each end is a short and broad boss, carved to represent a conventionalised human face, and having a large square tunnel running through from side to side. This no doubt was to accommodate a rope handle, which would greatly facilitate the carrying of such a heavy bowl.

The other example is illustrated in Fig. 10, and shows a still finer degree of finish and decoration. Internally the rim is almost circular, but at each end it thickens out so as to form a point externally. The flat oval base is quite small and, as before, the sides run almost straight from rim to base. The rim lies in a slightly twisted flat plane, and one end is a little higher than the other. The interior is roughly hemispherical and presents a very smooth and well finished surface. Inside there is no flat bottom, as in the previous example. On the higher end there is a deeply cut conventionalised human face with a three-fingered hand spread out on the rim on each side of it. One finger passes right over the rim into the interior of the bowl. On the other end there is a less elaborate face, but it has in addition a conventionalised body curving down underneath to form a kind of handle. The whole bowl is a very fine piece of workmanship, both in general form and in decoration.

An unfinished bowl from Katikati, Bay of Plenty, is rather puzzling. Externally it has the same straight sides as the Taranaki type, but internally it agrees more with those listed in Series 3, in that the sides and bottom form a single semi-cylindrical sweep from rim to rim, while the ends are more or less straight. On one end is a lug, but the other end has been broken away. The outside has been roughly trimmed up to its final shape, but the inside is still in a more or less unfinished state.

Museum No.	Fig.	Length Overall.	Breadth at Centre.	Depth at Centre.	Locality.
4470	9	940 mm.	710 mm.	275 mm.	Ohura, Taranaki
24236	10	800 mm.	540 mm.	225 mm.	Normanby, Taranaki
5066	-	640 mm.	400 mm.	200 mm.	Katikati, Bay of Plenty

### Unusual Bowls.

In Plate 46 are illustrated a number of bowls which exhibit unusual form or points of similarity with bowls from other parts of the Pacific.

Fig. 11 is a large and heavy trough, roughly oblong in shape and fairly deep. Its peculiarity lies in the disposition of the handles, which are near the corners instead of centrally on the ends. This does not upset its balance, however, and it is just as easy to carry as one with normally placed handles.

A very fine bowl, of which two views are shown in Fig. 12, comes from Clevedon. It is really more of a dish, broad and

shallow. Beautifully shaped in the form of a broad oval, it has been most carefully finished off inside, although weathering has since had considerable effect. A point of interest is its overhanging rim, which extends right round the top. This uncommon feature occurs again in another bowl, Fig. 13, and also in a carved bowl figured by Brigham (1908, p. 174). Apart from these I know of no other examples exhibiting this feature.

A very fine bowl, quite unlike any other, is shown in Fig. 13. Broadly ovoid in form, this example has its greatest circumference a short distance below the rim. The rim is broad and flat, and in the form of an oval, which narrows somewhat towards the front. It lies in a flat plane except for a slight upward curve in front, and it overhangs the sides as in the last example. Adze marks are clearly visible both inside and out, and these have been considerably smoothed down by means of a scraper. On the front end projects a carved head with a wide open mouth, which is bored so as to serve as a spout. On the other end is a short rounded lug perforated by a round hole. The shape of the interior agrees very well with that of the outside, and the walls would nowhere exceed 40 mm. in thickness. Viewed from the side, this bowl resembles a grotesquely fat animal with a small head and a short tail. It is an exceptionally fine specimen, and a great amount of work must have been involved in its manufacture.

The bowl illustrated in Fig. 14 has a rather Melanesian appearance, almost reminding one of the turtle motif employed in Fiji and elsewhere. Recovered from a swamp in the Bay of Islands district, it is almost black and is in a perfect state of preservation. The rim outline is an oblong oval, and the depth is not very great. Externally the rather convex sides and ends slope rapidly in to a small oblong base, and there are distinct corners where they meet each other. Internally the sides and ends are more concave, and there is no angle where they meet. There is a small flat and oval bottom. The most unusual feature is the set of four lugs, which are situated at the corners, about 20 mm. below the rim. Three of these have rounded ends, while the fourth is tapered. The whole bowl has been carefully shaped and smoothed off, so that the tool marks are almost obliterated.

The four-legged bowl shown in Fig. 15 comes from Motiti Island, Tauranga, and is apparently not finished. Skinner (1922, p. 182) describes and figures three elaborately carved specimens in the form of a dog, and states that although four-legged bowls have a limited distribution in New Zealand, they occur widely in the South Seas. He figures for comparison a very similar type of bowl in the form of a pig, from the Solomons. The example figured here has no decoration, but perhaps would have been worked up to a more animal-like form if it had been finished.

In Fig. 16 we have a roughly finished boat-shaped bowl with a large knob on one end, and standing on four peculiarly looped feet. On top of each end there is a large flat knob, and it would appear that further trimming and perhaps ornamentation was

contemplated. This was found in a swamp at Awaiti Stream, Hauraki Plains. It is the only example I know that has the looped feet, but Edge-Partington (1890, p. 143) figures a bowl with somewhat similar supports, from the Banks Islands.

The partly finished example illustrated in Fig. 17 comes from a swamp at Opotiki, and possibly was intended finally to be a bowl somewhat similar to the last two. It is interesting in that it shows a general shaping of the outside, and just the beginning of the excavation of the interior.

In the Canterbury Museum there is a very striking, though fragmentary, bowl from the famous Moa Bone Cave at Sumner, No. E72.65. Gracefully canoe-shaped, this bowl is very similar to some from New Guinea.

Smith (1901, p. 430) describes a bowl carved out of miro wood, and discovered in Ashburton. He gives a figure of this bowl, which is quite unlike any other known examples. Its most interesting feature is an ornamental device of fine notches on each end, and I shall have occasion to return to this matter shortly.

Skinner (1922, p. 182) mentions the absence of wooden bowls from the Chathams, and advances as a possible reason the absence of suitable timber in those islands. In the Auckland Museum Collection there is a broken bowl, No. 18673, from these islands, but unfortunately the exact locality is not now decipherable. It is made of kauri and is in three pieces, which when put together form an almost complete bowl. It is oval in outline and comparatively shallow, one end being produced to form a spout, in which there is a wide and shallow channel. On the underside of the end of the spout there is a conventionalised human head, but otherwise both outside and inside of the bowl have been but roughly finished off. The fact that it is made of kauri seems rather strange, but I believe there is a record somewhere of a kauri log being stranded at the Chathams, and in this way suitable timber may have been made available. The only other explanation would seem to be that it was taken there from the mainland by the Maoris.

Museum No.	Fig.	Length Without Projections.	Breadth at Middle.	Depth at Middle.	Locality.
21121	11	625 mm.	465 mm.	265 mm.	—
22345	12	675 mm.	515 mm.	165 mm.	Mataitai, Clevedon
22968	13	420 mm.	405 mm.	235 mm.	Waikaretu, S. Waikato
13762	14	445 mm.	350 mm.	170 mm.	Bay of Islands
14015	15	520 mm.*	235 mm.	150 mm.	Motiti Id., Tauranga
1197	16	692 mm.*	190 mm.	117 mm.	Hauraki Plains
23865	17	510 mm.*	215 mm.	140 mm.	Opotiki
E.72.65	—	445 mm.*	140 mm.	76 mm.**	Sumner
(Smith)	—	380 mm.*	200 mm.	200 mm.**	Ashburton
18673	—	480 mm.*	305 mm.	125 mm.	Chatham Islands

\*Overall.

\*\*Probably total depth.

### Smaller Utensils.

In Plate 47 is shown a collection of smaller wooden utensils of various shapes and sizes. Broadly speaking, they may be divided into pouring utensils and platters, and on account of their handiness would no doubt have quite a number of uses.

Figs. 18 and 19 are tapered pourers with grooved points to serve as spouts. A third example, No. 6600, has the pointed spout curved downward.

Fig. 20 is roughly square in cross-section and has a small handle on one end. The spout on the other end is round and tapering, and is widely and deeply channelled.

In Fig. 21 we have a very striking and well finished utensil. Made of totara, it is particularly well smoothed down both inside and out. The almost parallel sides are quite thin, and the ends are symmetrically rounded. On one end is a handle in the form of an elongated human head, and on the other end is a round and channelled spout. An unusual feature is the ornamental device of fine notches which extend right round the outer edge of the rim and appear also on the underside of the handle. To this ornamentation I will refer later.

Fig. 22 is an irregularly shaped utensil carved from a knotty piece of wood. It is quite heavy and does not appear to have had a spout of any kind.

A small wooden dish, which apparently had a notch in one end to serve as a spout comes from Opotiki, No. 6388. It is elliptical in outline and quite shallow, the inside being excavated so as to make it somewhat boat-shaped. Externally its surface is made up of a wide bottom and two relatively narrower sides which run the whole length and make sharp angles where sides and bottom meet.

Still another example is No. 16262.2, in the form of a widely oval and shallow dish with a flat bottom. From one end projects a short and broad spout with quite a large channel. Unfortunately this specimen is badly broken, but practically all the pieces have been saved.

Of the platter type there are three examples. Fig. 23, which is crudely fashioned, is a large and rather unwieldy dish, with a rough and curved handle on one end.

Fig. 24, which was taken from a stream bed at Tokoroa, near Putaruru, is in the form of a shallow pan with a pointed and rather curved handle. The sides are nearly vertical and the bottom is a little dished, so that externally it presents a quite convex surface. Originally this utensil probably showed a fairly good finish, but as a result of long immersion it is now much worn.

The third example, Fig. 25, is a shallow dish, somewhat oval in form, but with one side longer than the other. There is a

handle at each end, and the bottom slopes so that the depth on the long curved side is about twice that on the short side.

Museum No.	Fig.	Length Overall.	Greatest Breadth.	Depth at Centre.	Locality.
7665	18	740 mm.	170 mm.	90 mm.	Patetonga
20854	19	400 mm.	195 mm.	75 mm.	Near Tauranga
6600	—	480 mm.	205 mm.	105 mm.	Orakau pa, Kihikihi
22335	20	500 mm.	150 mm.	120 mm.	Otorohanga
4689	21	660 mm.	200 mm.	87 mm.	Kerepeehi, Hauraki Plns
2600	22	305 mm.	205 mm.	120 mm.	—
6388	—	272 mm.	120 mm.	55 mm.	Opotiki
16262.2	—	360 mm.	275 mm.	100 mm.	Puni, Franklin Co.
5194	23	760 mm.	280 mm.	115 mm.	East Cape
19515	24	500 mm.	255 mm.	75 mm.	Tokoroa, near Putaruru
23549	25	620 mm.	305 mm.	110 mm.	Kamo

### Ornamentation.

In general the Maori seemed to look upon his bowls from the point of view of utility rather than that of beauty, and consequently we find that most examples are devoid of any ornamentation whatsoever. There are, however, some notable exceptions, and these are briefly mentioned below.

The most common form of ornamentation is the carving of the handles or spouts. In the Taranaki example, Fig. 9, the handles are carved to represent conventionalised human faces, while in Fig. 10 we see a far more elaborate presentation of the same idea. In this case one face is accompanied by a pair of three-fingered hands while the other has a body as well.

A rather different result is obtained in Fig. 21, where the shape of the face has been made to suit the cylindrical handle on which it is carved.

In Fig. 13 the spout is carved in the form of a head with a wide open mouth, and this bowl, in common with Fig. 12, exhibits the feature of a clearly defined projecting rim all round the top edge.

A most interesting decorative feature is displayed by Fig. 21. Right round the outer edge of the rim and along the underside of the handle it is ornamented with a series of notches from 4 to 5 mm. apart. A Papuan bowl in the Museum collection exhibits exactly the same feature, and it occurs again on the ends of the bowl from Ashburton (described by Smith, 1901, p. 430). This notching device is also commonly found in Chatham Island work.

The most elaborate ornamentation is to be found on the special *kumete* which were used for serving up titbits to visitors of rank. These bowls are either trough-shaped or circular, in the

latter case often being fitted with a lid. They are usually elaborately carved all over the outside, and are supported by two human figures. As a general rule these figures have their arms outstretched to convey the impression that they are holding up the bowl. In some cases both figures face inward, while in others they both face outward. On rare occasions we will see one looking in and one looking out.

There are quite a few of these carved bowls in the Auckland Museum Collection, but as they are all of fairly modern manufacture they have not been included in this paper.

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Please contact Auckland Museum for more information.

**Trough-shaped Bowls. Two views of each.**

- Fig. 1. Patetonga, near Morrinsville.
- Fig. 2. Kaiapohia pa (Canterbury Museum).
- Fig. 3. Helensville.

All x 1/13.

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- Fig. 4. Paterangi, near Ohaupo. Two views.  
Fig. 5. Rangiriri.  
Fig. 6. Otorohanga.  
Fig. 7. Southern Wairoa.  
Fig. 8. Locality unknown. Two views.

All x 1/11.



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Figs. 9, 10. Taranaki bowls. x 1/9.

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**Bowls of unusual shape.**

- Fig. 11. Locality unknown.
- Fig. 12. Mataitai, Clevedon. Two views.
- Fig. 13. Waikaretu, S. Waikato. Two views.
- Fig. 14. Bay of Islands.
- Fig. 15. Motiti Island, Tauranga.
- Fig. 16. Awaiti Stream, Hauraki Plains.
- Fig. 17. Opotiki.

All x 1/12.

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**Smaller Wooden Utensils.**

Figs. 18-22. Vessels suitable for pouring liquids.

Figs. 23-25. Shallow dishes or platters.

All x 1/8.